

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, JUNE 14, 1978 (SALT TWO 1784)

REFS: A. SALT TWO 1783 B. SALT TWO 1777 C. SALT TWO 1785
D. STATE 142697

1. AT JUNE 14 PLENARY, I PRESENTED PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO CRUISE MISSILE RANGE DEFINITION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE PERCENTAGE ALLOWANCE IN EXCESS OF RANGE LIMITATION (EXCLUDING FUEL RESERVES) FOR ALL EXCEPT ANTISHIP CRUISE MISSILES (REF A). MY SECOND STATEMENT (REF A) REJECTED PART OF SEMENOV'S JUNE 8 PLENARY STATEMENT (REF B) IMPLYING EITHER 2500 KILOMETER OR LOWER RANGE WILL BE MAXIMUM PERMITTED AFTER PROTOCOL EXPIRATION AND STATED THAT PROTOCOL PROVISIONS ESTABLISH NO PRECEDENT FOR PERIOD BEYOND TERM OF PROTOCOL.

2. SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (REF C) REPEATED SOVIET POSITION AND RATIONALE FOR ARTICLE XVI, ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM
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LAUNCHES.

3. AT POST-PLENARY I CONFIRMED ZERO NUMBERS FOR SOVIET ASBMS AND HEAVY BOMBERS EQUIPPED ONLY FOR ASBMS BUT DISAGREED THAT SAME NUMBER APPLIED TO HEAVY BOMBERS EQUIPPED FOR LONG RANGE CRUISE MISSILES, CITING CERTAIN SOVIET BEAR AIRPLANES (REF D). WITHOUT GIVING A NUMBER, I SAID SUCH

AIRPLANES SHOULD COUNT IN THIS CATEGORY UNDER EITHER US OR SOVIET CRUISE MISSILE RANGE DEFINITION, AND THIS WOULD NOT BE ALTERED BY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROACH US PRESENTED TODAY. SEMENOV APPEARED UNFAMILIAR WITH MATTER AND SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO ISSUE.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER POST-PLenary CONVERSATIONS:

JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN

SHCHUKIN REACTED POSITIVELY TO CONCEPT OF DELTA FOR CRUISE MISSILE RANGE BUT SAID HE WOULD PREFER TYING IT TO SOVIET DEFINITION OF RANGE RATHER THAN ONE PROPOSED BY UNITED STATES. HE QUESTIONED NEED FOR FUEL RESERVE FOR UNMANNED VEHICLE. CONCERNING DISTINCTION BEING PROPOSED FOR ANTISHIP CRUISE MISSILES, SHCHUKIN QUESTIONED THIS DISTINCTION IN TERMS OF VERIFIABILITY.

PEREZ-GRAHAM-VERSHBOW/SMOLIN-OBOUKHOV

RE US CRUISE MISSILE RANGE ALLOWANCE PROPOSAL, SOVIETS QUESTIONED EXCLUSION OF AND EXEMPTION OF ANTISHIP SYSTEMS. US REPS EXPLAINED CRUISE MISSILE WOULD VIOLATE LIMITS IF IT EXCEEDED EITHER OF US CRITERIA, AND IT WAS POSSIBLE TO EXCEED ONE WITHOUT OTHER. SMOLIN SAID HE THOUGHT UNLIMITED ALLOWANCE FOR ANTISHIP SYSTEMS WOULD UNDERMINE BORDERLINE BETWEEN TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC SYSTEMS WHICH 600 KM LIMIT INTENDED TO ESTABLISH.

SCHNEITER-ELDREDGE/BEKETOV-KOUKLEV

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SOVIETS OBJECTED TO CONTINUING INCLUSION OF MAXIMUM SYSTEM OPERATIONAL RANGE AS A CRITERION, ARGUING THAT MSOR COULD NOT BE DETERMINED BY NTM. WHEN PRESSED BY KOUKLEV AS TO MAGNITUDE OF ALLOWANCE, SCHNEITER CITED, AS EXAMPLE, AN ALLOWANCE OF 40 PERCENT FOR ALCMS ON HEAVY BOMBERS, WHICH WERE SUBJECT TO 2500 KM LIMITATION. IN DISCUSSION CONCERNING EARLE'S SECOND STATEMENT, SOVIETS INDICATED THAT THEIR POSITION WAS TO LEAVE OPEN QUESTION OF CRUISE MISSILE RANGE LIMITATIONS FOR POST-PROTOCOL PERIOD, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING 2500 KM PROTOCOL RANGE LIMIT.

5. NEXT PLENARY, JUNE 21, 1978. EARLE

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NNN

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